

Minutes for the ABAC meeting of January 21, 2015

Board members present were Jack Johnson, Scott Smith, Christopher Tonkin, Doug Greenfield, Phil Goff, and Stephan Miller. Ron Sender was absent. Also in attendance were Officer Bobby Smith, Adam Chapdelaine (Town Manager), Ron Holland, Stephen Quinn and Joey Glushko.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm.

Introductions and greetings were made all around the table.

*The minutes for the December 17 meeting were accepted after some corrections were made.

Winter Social to take place on Wednesday March 4, 2015. Christopher informed us that he has paid the deposit for the room at the Common Ground Restaurant where the Winter Social will take place. We should all be there a bit early to help set up. Joey asked if we would like to show the MassBike safety video. We then had a discussion about showing the video, Shifting Gears: Bicyclists and Public Safety. Phil thought that the video is too long considering how full agenda will be. We decided that there will probably not be time to show the video.

Next, we discussed how the program should be conducted. We decided that the entire discussion should take about an hour with each participant getting about 30 seconds for a short introduction. Adam will do a summary of what has been discussed at the end of the event. Christopher asked if we should provide snacks as Common Ground provides various levels of refreshments at reasonable charge. Stephan said that ABAC can pay for the provision of light refreshments. We decided to post the notice of the event on the usual venues. We asked Jack to read the announcement so we could evaluate it on the spot. We made a few corrections and approved the announcement.

*The vote to approve the announcement of the Winter Social was unanimous.

COBWEB—officer introduction. Officer Smith introduced himself and told us that they haven't been out on bicycles too much because of the weather. Scott asked about the transition time frame for the Police Chief's position. Officer Smith said that it is too early to comment.

Traffic Advisory Committee (TAC) report. Scott told us there is nothing new from TAC on the Roadway Marking Guidelines. He will definitely put it on next month's TAC agenda. He would like to get it completed before Town Meeting starts. Scott then explained the matrix to officer Smith.

Scott then told us that the Town Manager would like to bring a simple warrant article to Town Meeting in order to accept the State's Complete Streets Policy as a Town bylaw. He said that ABAC will have some input into this article when it is written in the spring.

TAC will bring the plan for redesign of the Bikeway/Lake St. intersection before the Board of Selectmen (BoS) and ask them to provide funds for the final design. The light will be a full signal coordinated with the signal at Brooks Ave. Phil gave us a summary of TAC's report which outlines the pros and cons of installing a light. Rod thought that the installation of a signal would be unambiguous, that is, everyone will know what they should be doing at the intersection. We had a lengthy discussion about whether ABAC will endorse the installation of this signal. Phil pointed out that there are very few crashes at this location and the lack of a signal forces all parties to be cautious and slow down.

Gold's Gym access ramp to the Bikeway. Jack wrote a letter about the problems at entrance to the Bikeway off the Gold's Gym parking lot and Joey forwarded it to the BoS. Joey told us that the Board is already working on this problem and it will be discussed at their meeting on February second.

Trash Receptacles along the Bikeway. Joey told us that she attended the most recent meeting of the Parks and Open Space Trash Committee. She informed us that we now need to get permission from the Town to clean up the Bikeway and have the trash bags picked up afterward. There is now a paperwork process that

must be followed before cleanup is sanctioned. This will be a common process for all the Town departments that are involved in an event.

Tax Bill insert. This insert, proposed by ABAC, gives suggestions for safely walking or biking at night. Joey told us that the insert has been designed and will be paid for by the planning department and should be sent out by the end of the month with the next automobile excise tax bill. Scott asked if TACs financial support will still be required for the printing of the insert. Joey answered that some support would be useful and added that there will be 2000 extra fliers printed so we can hand them out at various ABAC events and some venues around town.

Bicycle helmet give away. Christopher informed us that the helmets we are giving away at our Town Day booth have been ordered. We will have 100 helmets to give away this year.

Bike Counts. We discussed the need to do counts at different times and locations in addition to those that we are currently doing. Scott suggested sites near Rt. 16, at the Rt. 2 underpass on the Bikeway and on Mass. Ave. at the Alewife Greenway intersection. Another spot suggested was in Arlington Center in front of the Cambridge Savings Bank so that you would get both on street and Bikeway traffic. We tentatively decided that we would investigate including counts at the Mass Ave/Rt. 16/Alewife Greenway intersection site.

Bikeway Cleanup. Stephan told us that the Bikeway again needs to be cleaned up. The areas around Thorndike Field, near Mill St. and The Heights have accumulated a lot of trash over the summer. He is thinking of taking a year off from leading this effort but will make a decision by the end of January.

Bike Week Breakfast. The Town and the 128 Business Council did a Bikeway Breakfast last year. The event was well attended by commuters on the Bikeway near Alewife Station. This year the Business Council will not be participating so ABAC and the Town would have to do it ourselves. Christopher asked if there are any other groups in Town that could help us. It was suggested that the Kickstand Café might be persuaded to participate. Phil thought that in front of the Café might be a better location for the event because it could capture both Bikeway and Mass. Ave. traffic. We will revisit this topic at a future meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm

*Notes that a vote of the board was taken.

Minutes submitted by Stephan Miller